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PSC ELECTS DAVE FISHER AS CHAIRMAN

The state Public Service Commission today elected Dave Fisher (D-Butte) as its chairman for the next two years. Fisher replaces current chair Nancy McCaffree (D-Forsyth), who did not run for chairman this time, but who was elected vice-chair.

Fisher is a lifelong Butte resident and small business owner and former chief executive of Butte-Silver Bow. He served several years on the Butte-Silver Bow Council of Commissioners, including a stint as its chairman from 1986 to 1989. Fisher was elected to the PSC in 1992 and re-elected to a second term in November.

"Over the next few years, this commission, along with the legislature, executive branch, and the federal government, will move farther along the path of replacing monopoly utilities with marketplace forces," according to Fisher. "The PSC can no longer be apart from those other players, but must become a full partner with them in shaping public policy. We must be proactive to help fashion the energy, telecommunications and transportation systems of Montana's future."

Fisher, McCaffree and Bob Rowe (D-Missoula) began their second terms on the commission today. They and Bob Anderson (D-Helena) and Danny Oberg (D-Havre) comprise the PSC. PSC members are elected to four-year terms from five districts throughout the state. The PSC regulates private, investor-owned electric, natural gas, water and telephone companies doing business in the state, as well as intrastate railroads and certain motor carriers.

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